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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,907	06/14/2006	Zenhua Yu	NL03 1491 US1	4999
24738 7590 12/13/2007 PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NORTH AMERICA CORPORATION INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS 370 W. TRIMBLE ROAD MS 91/MG SAN JOSE, CA 95131			EXAMINER IZAGUIRRE, ISMAEL	
			ART UNIT 3765	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 12/13/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/582,907	Applicant(s) YU, ZHENHUA	
	Examiner Ismael Izaguirre	Art Unit 3765	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7, 9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/14/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

SPECIFICATION

Headings

Applicant is asked to take note the preferred arrangement and headings directed to a specification: except for the title, each of the lettered items should preferably be preceded by the headings indicated below.

- (a) Cross-Reference to Related Application(s) (if any).
- (b) Background of the Invention.
 - 1. Field of the Invention (or Technical Field).
 - 2. Description of the Related Art (or Background Information or Background Art)
- (c) Summary of the Invention (or Disclosure of Invention).
- (d) Brief Description of the Drawing(s).
- (e) Description of the Preferred Embodiment(s)
- (f) Claim(s).
- (g) Abstract of the Disclosure (or Abstract).

Providing the above would place the specification in accordance with the suggestions of those portions of MPEP §§ 601 or 608.01 concerning "proper headings".

CLAIMS

Summary

Claim 1 is the independent claim under consideration in this Office Action.

Claims 2-10 are the dependent claims under consideration in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Adlay Lesaga (6,953,912).

Lesaga teaches a steam iron including a soleplate with a surface 1 which comes in contact with the materials being ironed and includes steam apertures 11 for allowing steam to flow and come in contact with the material as well. A raised portion at 4 is provided for accommodating a steam generator separate from the soleplate. A heating means 2 is provided for heating the soleplate and a separate heating means 7 is provided for heating the steam generator. The heating means for the soleplate is provided on the raised portion of the soleplate (see figure 5, for example) and the steam generator is provided between the raised positions at said raised level and exhausts the steam generated therein onto the soleplate heaters as the steam makes its way out the soleplate. A planar sheet canopy (figure 1, for example) is provided for covering the raised portions of the soleplate another canopy 5a is provided for covering the steam generator.

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bacon et al. (1,380,415).

Bacon et al. teach a steam iron including a soleplate with a surface 15 which comes in contact with the materials being ironed and includes steam apertures on plate 22 for allowing steam to flow and come in contact with the material as well. A raised portion is provided with a flattened heating means 16 and a space accommodating a separate steam generation means 13. A heating means 16 is provided for heating the soleplate and a separate heating means 12a is provided for heating the steam generator. An embossed sheet and/ or carved out portion at 23 is provided at the bottom surface of the soleplate which forms a recess for use as a means for steam distribution during operation of the steam iron. The planar sheet is provided with apertures for allowing steam to pass.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 4-6 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

PERTINENT CITATIONS

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Fitzsimmons, Yabuuchi et al. and Chasen illustrate double heaters and raised sections on the soleplates for accommodating separate steam generators. Evans, Jr. et al. and Vance illustrate soleplates with recessed or embossed lower surfaces of the soleplates.

INQUIRIES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Izaguirre whose telephone number is (571) 272-4987. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Welch can be reached on (571) 272-4996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Ismael Izaguirre
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3765